

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method for noninvasive screening of a patient for the presence of Barrett's esophageal precancerous condition comprising the steps of:

- a) administering an appropriate amount of sucrose to said patient, said patient not having ulcerative disease of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract nor bleeding therefrom;
- b) collecting urine voided by said patient during a suitable time period after the administration of sucrose;
- c) measuring levels of sucrose present in the urine collected in step b); and
- d) comparing the urine levels of sucrose in said patient with a control urine sample, wherein an increase in the urine levels of sucrose indicates said patient requires endoscopy to confirm the presence of Barrett's esophageal precancerous condition in said patient.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, wherein said urine is collected over a 24 hour period.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

- e) obtaining a tissue sample from the esophageal mucosa of said patient;
- f) examining tight junction (TJ) leakiness of said tissue sample; and
- g) comparing the TJ leakiness of said tissue sample from said patient with that from a control tissue sample, wherein an increase in the TJ leakiness of said tissue sample from said patient is indicative of the Barrett's esophageal condition in said patient.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Cancelled)